

COVID19 Update for Dickson College 9 April 2020

Dear Students and families,

Welcome to the end of week 10, it has been a challenging time for everyone and my staff and I are looking forward to the school holiday period. The purpose of today's communication is to outline arrangements for student learning next term.

This week we have worked on redesigning the online timetable for term 2. In redesigning this we have considered the importance of connection, structure and flexibility for students and staff as well as acknowledging the challenges of working remotely from home. The resulting timetable will now be scheduled over a shorter daily timeframe with regular a break for morning tea and lunch. There is also scheduled blocks of time for flexible learning where students can work independently on their assessment and other learning activities asynchronously. Wednesday has been set aside specifically for this purpose. A copy of the online timetable is attached to this email and has also been posted to our website.

Learning for Term 2 will be online

As mentioned by the ACT Minister of Education recently, teachers all over the ACT system have prepared for learning to be remote\online from the beginning of term 2. To ensure successful outcomes for students next term, we need all our students engaged and participating in our online learning program. While students will be learning remotely, we aren't asking you as parents to be teachers. You will still be part of our school community with the classmates, teachers and staff you know. If students don't have access to a device or computer at home, this will be provided, along with internet access for families who need it. Whilst this is new for us all, rest assured that our teachers have prioritised the wellbeing and learning of students and families.

Expectations of participation when students are working remotely online during term 2

Students should be participating in their classes by logging onto Google classroom with their teacher during the scheduled time on the timetable. Learning activities during this scheduled time will vary from course to course but students will be expected to stay connected with their teacher and progress their learning by completing the tasks set by the teacher. The completion of these tasks will count towards the participation requirement (i.e. 90% normally satisfied by physical attendance) in each unit students study. To satisfy this participation requirement students will be expected to complete ~1.5 hours of flexible learning activities outside of the scheduled class time. Wednesday has been set aside to allow students to work on tasks and complete assessment independently. A summary of the participation is detailed below:

Student participation in each class = 2 x 1 hour online classes + 1.5 hours of flexible learning

Mid Semester Reports and Parent Teacher Evening

Reports capturing formative assessment and feedback to students have been compiled over the last few days. This new reporting format is new for the college and managing a school wide change in the current situation has been difficult to say the least. That said teachers are committed to getting them out to students during week 1 next term.

The College is currently investigating hosting our Parent Teacher Evening online. Information on this will be coming out when the Mid Semester reports are distributed. We will confirm the date and time with Parents and carers as soon as we can.

Student Wellbeing

If students are requiring additional support to engage with their studies, they should contact our Student Wellbeing area. Student Wellbeing can put students in touch with our school psychologist, the relevant Year Coordinator or our Careers and Transitions team.

Please stay up to date with the latest information on COVID-19 by visiting the [ACT Health](#), the [Australian Government Department of Health](#), [ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies \(BSSS\)](#), and the [Dickson College](#) websites and [Dickson College Facebook page](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support my staff and I really appreciate it. I am fortunate to have such an amazing team and a supportive school community.

I would like to wish all our students and families a happy and safe Easter and school holiday break. Take care and stay connected.

Regards

Craig Edwards
Principal